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CENSUS OF CASPIAN TERN NESTING COLONY AT DUMBARTON BRIDGE

Assisted by my wife and daughter Eileen of the St. Paul Audubon Society, a survey of the Caspian tern nesting colony was carried out on May 30, 1953. The results were as follows:

Nests with one egg	47
" two eggs	152
" three eggs	20
" one egg and one young	35
" one egg and two young	10
" two eggs and one young	15
" one young	15
" two young	37
" three young	4

Young out of nests, walking along levee, or swimming in water numbered 44. Adult birds counted totalled 290 plus 450 estimated. This gave us a grand total of 740 adults, 215 young, 486 eggs and 335 nests. Twenty-one dead young were also counted. The increase in totals over last year may be accounted for by the census being made three weeks earlier than in 1952. (The 1952 census was published in THE GULL for July, 1952.)

— CARLYE SATHER

NEW MEMBERS: We welcome the following: from San Francisco, Sterling Bunnell, Jr., Miss Louise Campanari, Robert Durden; from Oakland, Frank Bermudez, Lawrence J. Butters, Bertram F. Carter, Miss A. Faucett, George Gan, Allen Johnson, Jerry Johnson, Donald Patton, George Patton, Mrs. Rich R. Rimbach; from Piedmont, Miss Ruth V. H. Brown; from Berkeley, Dr. Arthur S. Campbell, V. W. Keplinger, Richard M. Leonard, Dr. A. Starker Leopold, Admiral and Mrs. Chester W. Nimitz, James Ziegler; from El Cerrito, Mrs. Ester Foley; from Orinda, Mrs. B. W. West; from Novato, Miss Faire Berry, Mrs. Phyllis Stewart; from Kentfield, Mitchell T. Neff; from Mill Valley, Dr. Emmy Syvelster, from Los Gatos, Miss Emily D. Smith.

JUNE TRIP TO STRAWBERRY CANYON

On Saturday, June 27, 13 members and friends visited the University of California Botanical Gardens in Strawberry Canyon in Berkeley. Allen hummingbirds were numerous in one section. Several black-headed grosbeaks sang frequently and melodiously while in view. In a four-hour stay the following 28 species were reported. (Note—the gardens are open from 10 to 5 during daylight saving time although the official sign reads 9 to 4 with no qualification.)

Red-tailed hawk, Calif. quail, mourning dove, Allen hummingbird, red-shafted flicker, downy woodpecker, black phoebe, w. wood pewee, olive-sided flycatcher; Steller and scrub jays; plain titmouse, bush-tit, Bewick wren, robin, olive-backed thrush, orange-crowned warbler, black-headed grosbeak; purple and house finches; pine siskin; American and lesser goldfinches; spotted and brown towhees; Oregon junco; white-crowned and song sparrows.

— E. A. MAYERS, *Historian*.

JULY TRIP TO FREMONT PEAK AND MOSS LANDING

Eight members camped at Fremont Peak State Park on July 11. Harry Adamson reported the following 22 species in the park: sparrow hawk; Anna and Allen hummingbirds; Calif. and Nuttall woodpeckers; ash-throated flycatcher, black phoebe, w. wood pewee, olive-sided flycatcher, scrub jay, plain titmouse, bush-tit, white-breasted nuthatch, rock wren, w. bluebird, blue-gray gnatcatcher; solitary and warbling vireos; lesser and Lawrence goldfinches; spotted towhee, and Oregon junco.

Forty members and friends of the Monterey, Santa Clara, and Golden Gate Audubon Societies enjoyed good birding near Moss Landing on July 12. A noteworthy visitor was Burt Monroe of Anchorage, Kentucky. Highlights of the trip were the nests of Forster and least terns, avocet and song sparrow, and a bank swallow colony near the Pajaro river. Fifty species were found as follows: w. grebe, great blue heron; American and snowy egrets; black-crowned night heron, pintail, turkey vulture, white-tailed kite; marsh and sparrow hawks; snowy plover, killdeer, long-billed curlew, willet, greater yellow-legs; least and western sandpipers; dowitcher, marbled godwit, avocet, black-necked stilt; Wilson and northern phalaropes; w., ring-billed, Bonaparte and Heermann gulls; Forster, least and Caspian terns; mourning dove, Calif. woodpecker, black phoebe; bank, rough-winged, barn and cliff swallows; scrub jay, crow, loggerhead shrike, house sparrow, w. meadowlark; red-winged and Brewer blackbirds; house finch; American and lesser goldfinches; Savannah, white-crowned and song sparrows. A burrowing owl was seen on Bayshore Highway on the way down.

— HILDA AND CARLYLE SATHER, *Leaders and Historians*.

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The June number of THE AMERICAN MAGAZINE has an article by John Kieran "Strictly for the Birds", with colored illustrations supplied by the National Audubon Society.

THE 1952 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

The 1952 Christmas Bird Count was published in the April, 1953, number of AUDUBON FIELD NOTES. A total of 456 counts was published, 23 more than the previous year, with every state being represented, also Alaska and four provinces of Canada. The longest list this year was 151, submitted by both Los Angeles and Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge, Texas. Next with 142 were Wilmington, N. C., and Sabine National Wildlife Refuge, La., while tied at 140 were St. Marks, Fla., and Houston, Tex. Oakland was seventh with 132, while San Francisco was tied for 27th with 107.

Twenty-seven of the lists were from California, with 10 totalling 100 species or more, as follows: (1) Los Angeles, 151 (with 116 observers!); (2) Oakland, 132; (3) Morro Bay, 120 (2 observers); (4) Salinas, 119; (5) Monterey Peninsula, 114; (6) San Jose, 110; (7) San Francisco, 107; (8) Sacramento, 106; (9) Pasadena, 104; (10) Orange County (central and coastal), 101. Other areas reported included the following areas which have been visited by the GGAS on field trips: Gray Lodge Wildlife Refuge, 62; Los Banos, 76; Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge, 64; Suisun Waterfowl Refuge, 82; Yosemite National Park, 56.

In the "Summary of Highest Counts of Individuals", the Oakland list led for four species, as follows: eared grebe, 164; willet, 2231; western sandpiper, 5960; and avocet, 926. The San Francisco list led for three species: wandering tattler, 1 (tie); sandpiper, 409; and western gull, 1009.

OBSERVATIONS

GOLDEN EAGLE, north of Livermore, June 14 (Larry Curl); NORTHERN PHALAROPE, 7 near Pt. Isabel on July 12 (LC); SEMIPALMATED PLOVERS, Pt. Isabel, July 12 (LC); WESTERN GULL, 2 nests on Seal Rocks, San Francisco, June 13 (Joel Hedgpeth); BLACK SWIFT, 8 at Corcoran, June 9 (S. S. Whitehead); ASH-THROATED FLYCATCHER, 2 in West Alameda, June 6 (Henry Wagner); WESTERN WOOD PEWEE, West Alameda, June 6 (HW); OLIVE-BACKED THRUSH, West Alameda, June 6 (HW); BLACK-THROATED GRAY WARBLER, Tilden Park, May 24 (LC, HW); YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT, West Alameda, June 6 (HW); WESTERN TANAGER, Berkeley, May 31 (LC); LAZULI BUNTING, 3 singing, Albany Hill, June 28 (LC); GRASSHOPPER SPARROW, 2 singing, north end of San Pablo Ridge, June 7 (LC).

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Birders who are planning a trip to Mexico will be most interested in "Birds of Mexico. A Guide for Field Identification", by Emmet Reid Blake, published by the University of Chicago Press, at \$ 6.00 a copy. Another new book, of special interest to Californians, is "Birds and Mammals of the Sierra Nevada", by Lowell Sumner and Joseph S. Dixon, published by the University of California Press at \$ 7.50. Mr. Sumner was the speaker at the February 1953 GGAS meeting.

Scheduled to appear in the June-July issue of NATURE MAGAZINE is an article by Elma Dean, GGAS member from Oakland, entitled "Stranger in the Sanctuary", the story of an escapee Oriental bird.

AUGUST MEETING

The 431st meeting of the Golden Gate Audubon Society will be held in the Commissioners' Room of the San Francisco Public Library, Civic Center, on August 13 at 7:30 p.m. After the business meeting, Dr. A. W. Ward of San Francisco will report briefly on the work and activities of "Ducks Unlimited". Two color films will then be shown — "Wings across the Border" and "Water is Life".

DOROTHY DEAN SCOTT, *Program Chairman.*

AUGUST TRIP TO BAY FARM ISLAND

On Saturday, August 23, to Bay Farm Island to see the shorebirds returning from their nesting grounds in the far north. This trip will be held in the afternoon in order to have an optimum tide. Meet at Lincoln Park, Santa Clara and High Streets in Alameda at 1:30 p.m. From San Francisco take "O" bus, from the East Bay take bus 51 or 52. Leader, Mrs. Junea W. Kelly, LA. 2-7084. Bring binoculars, telescopes and interested friends.

AUGUST TRIP TO ORINDA

On Saturday, August 29, to Orinda and vicinity. The territory to be visited may include Cascade Lake, Bear Creek Road, San Pablo Reservoir and possibly St. Mary's College. Here just east of the Berkeley hills may be found a number of species such as white-breasted nuthatch and California and Nuttall woodpeckers which are seldom seen in or west of the Berkeley hills. Some resident and early migrating water birds may also be found. Meet at the south side of the Orinda Theatre at 9:00 a.m. Leader, Frank Scott, AS. 3-1253. Bring lunch if desired, binoculars, telescope, and interested friends.

ALBERT BOLES, *Acting Field Trips Chairman.*

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The last two-week session of the Audubon Camp of California, which is being held at the Sugar Bowl near Donner Summit, begins on August 12. For further details make inquiry at the California office of the National Audubon Society at the address below.

Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc.

Established January 25, 1917

For the Study and the Protection of Birds

Branch of National Audubon Society

California Office — 693 Sutter Street, San Francisco 2 — PR. 5-4042

President.....Dr. Albert Boles.....854 Longridge Road, Oakland 10, GL. 1-6267
 Cor. Sec.Miss Alice B. Leet.....1050 Spruce St., Berkeley 7, LA. 4-2488
 Treasurer.....Harold G. Peterson.....3548-65th Ave., Oakland 5, LO. 8-7534
 Editor.....A. Laurence Curl.....751 Balra Drive, El Cerrito 8, LA. 6-7004
 Distribution

Chairman.....Miss Minnie H. Young.....2726 Prince St., Berkeley 5, HU. 3-3180
 Membership

Chairman.....L. R. Leinbach.....201 Purdue Ave., Berkeley 8, LA. 6-7649

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